

The proposed changes will do for television what the 1996 Telecommunications Act did for radio -- produce heightened concentration and reduce programming diversity. The declining share of viewership held by the broadcast networks is not a justification for producing further concentration in the companies producing programming for both broadcast and cable outlets. News programming on the broadcast networks, even in its current sorry state, draws far more viewers than do the 24 hour news channels, so where is the danger posed to broadcast viability in that realm? Serve the public interest and hold extensive open hearings that provide equal time to that provided to industry interests at the various junkets they have provided for the commissioners.